

POLICY AND CURRICULUM SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, November 2, 2015

Oliver Administration Building

PRESENT

Subcommittee: Erin Schofield, Chair; John Saviano (6:18 p.m.) and Lynn Wainwright

School Committee, Administration & Guests: William O'Dell, and Diane Sanna, Assistant Superintendent;

Meeting called to order by Erin S. at 6:06 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Lynn W. motioned to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2015 meeting; Erin S. seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

DUAL AND CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT POLICY

Diane S. stated that she spoke with Sharon Lee from the Rhode Island Department of Education, Office of Multiple Pathways, who is requesting a Dual and Concurrent Enrollment Policy completion timeline from each district in Rhode Island.

Sharon Lee reviewed a draft copy of the BWRSD Dual and Concurrent

Enrollment Policy and feels the policy is clear and nicely done. Sharon Lee recommended a few edits to the policy. Diane S. distributed a revised copy of the Dual and Concurrent Enrollment Policy incorporating the recommended changes.

The Subcommittee reviewed and discussed the revisions to the Dual and Concurrent Enrollment policy.

Eligibility requirements for dual and concurrent enrollment were discussed.

Copy edits were briefly discussed.

{John S. arrived at 6:18 p.m.}

John S. shared a brief update from a meeting he attended with the Commissioner where dual enrollment student fee funding was discussed.

MOTION: Lynn W. made a motion to send the revised, copy-edited version of the Dual and Concurrent Enrollment Policy to the full School Committee for a first reading; seconded by John S.

DISCUSSION: Diane S. stated that once the School Committee approves the first reading; the Dual and Concurrent Enrollment Policy will be sent to the District's attorney for review.

The motion passed unanimously.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENT

Erin S. opened the floor to School Committee member Bill O'Dell for his concerns and comments.

Bill O. stated he believes that Rhode Island General Law 16-2-9 and 16-2-5.1 both are issuing a charge to the School Committee Chair to schedule professional development through School Committee Workshops. He does not believe that the law requires individual School Committee members to attend professional development. Bill O. believes that the language contained within RI General Law 16-2-9 and 16-2-5.1 relates to the School Committee as a whole body, not as individuals. He requested clarification.

John S. and Lynn W. shared their interpretation of Rhode Island General Law 16-2-9 and 16-2-5.1 believing that the 6 hour professional development requirement is speaking to the individual School Committee member.

Bill O. also asked under what legal authority a School Committee member's stipend could be withheld as stated in the proposed School Committee Professional Development Policy draft.

After some discussion, it was agreed upon to remove the language in the proposed School Committee Professional Development Policy regarding withholding the School Committee member's stipend.

A discussion ensued on whether the School Committee Professional Development Policy should be a standalone policy or whether it should be included in the School Committee Powers and Duties Policy.

A suggestion was made to incorporate the language from the proposed School Committee Professional Development Policy into an existing school committee policy regarding chairperson's duties. A reference to the policy regarding chairperson's duties would also be included in the School Committee Powers and Duties Policy (BBA).

Bill O. clarified that he doesn't have a problem with Professional Development. His concern is that the proposed policy doesn't accurately reflect the law. He also believes that it is better to make a persuasive argument to encourage voluntary buy-in rather than to mandate.

A discussion ensued on the types of opportunities and forms of media used to offer Professional Development to School Committee members.

Lynn W. stated that the School Committee Professional Development policy was proposed to promote conversation and to encourage raising the bar for School Committee members to become educated on the important issues that face school districts.

Diane S. will seek legal counsel's interpretation of #26 of R.I. Gen. Law 16-2-9 regarding School Committee Professional Development.

Erin S. will invite John Bento, School Committee Chairperson, to the next Policy & Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting.

John S. will contact the Rhode Island Association of School Committees for the purpose of researching RIASC policies related to School Committee Professional Development.

Erin S. stated that the conversation on School Committee Professional Development Requirement will be tabled to the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: John S. made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m.; seconded by Lynn W.

The motion passed unanimously.

/kd